

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

An American Girl in the Colombian Legation—Another Who Lectures on Astronomy—Hints for the Household.

MME. REGINA RENGIFO, A DIPLOMAT'S WIFE.

One of the fairest of beautiful women in Washington is Mme. Regina Rengifo, wife of the Charge d'Affaires of the Colombian Legation. Mme. Rengifo is an American woman, and came to the Legation a bride last November. She belongs to the aristocratic Barbour family, of Virginia, and was born in Washington, where her childhood was spent. Her girlhood was spent in Paris in the Convent of the Sacred Heart, where she received her education. She speaks French, Italian and Spanish, and has a sweet, musical voice that has been finely trained.

Mme. Rengifo has entertained but little, and is not now in society at all, because of the death of the father of her husband, Don Julio Rengifo. Mme. Rengifo has very decided opinions about things, but she expresses them so gently that they are scarcely aware that they have been expressed until you

cial life there is a little more ceremony and stated forms that must be observed, and that is all.

Mme. Rengifo's gowns and Mme. Rengifo's jewels have been the envy of half the women in Washington, though she has had but small opportunity to display them. Colombia is famous for its emeralds, and those sent to the young wife of her son by Senor Rengifo's mother are perfectly magnificent, immense in size and have been in the family for generations.

Senor Don Julio Rengifo has been much honored. He was General-in-Chief of his country when only thirty-seven years of age. And when the revolution broke out there last year he went back to help settle it. He distinguished himself by his bravery and wise counsel, and added new honor to the proud old name he bears so nobly.

There are a great many American wo-

CAPRICES OF FASHION.

Monkey skin, showing highly ornamental pores, and colored a delicate auburn brown, is the material of some of the newest card cases, belts and purses.

A hat made of corn shucks, with a big, puffy crown in one color and a round waved brim in a contrasting tint, is a late novelty in French millinery.

The hanks are cut into thin half-inch strips, and braided loosely, the result being extreme lightness of weight and airiness of effect.

Many of the new artificial flowers have gone to the vegetable garden as well as to the field for inspiration. There are white and green celery tops, buckwheat blooms and great loose green poppies, with purple edges, to imitate lettuce.

In the foliage line, certain tempting little spikes look suspiciously like chives, and there are onion and leek tops, and tufts of parsley, thyme and sweet marjoram. One smart French hat, just imported, boasts a whole bunch of soup vegetables, down even to a pair of tiny carrots and a crisp white turnip.

A small snail crawling up the stem of a sweet cabbage rose, and a ladybug resting on a lettuce leaf, were lovely and realistic suggestions with two other dashing hats.

SPANISH COMBS ENLARGING.

However high Cuban feeling may run, Spain has admirers for its styles, and the rout of innumerable Spanish troops has no effect upon the wearing of the Spanish comb. It is, in fact, more conspicuous than



ever before, both because of the frequency with which it is worn and on account of its imposing proportions.

The plain, highly polished tortoise shell comb that Carmen made popular has been replaced by an elaborately carved affair. A comb, measuring at least four inches across the top, and three from its upper edge to



the teeth, is cut in a design as minute and fine as filigree silver. Another enormous affair divides the hair into a trefle, each part of which is beautifully cut. Of course, these mammoth combs are intended exclusively for indoor wear. Not even the thinnest of evening bonnets could perch above the spreading expanse of tortoise shell.

HERE AND THERE.

The benevolent looking elderly gentleman who greeted the girl in gray on the Madison avenue horse car the other day was a trifle deaf. Consequently their fellow passengers were instructed and entertained by an animated conversation. The elderly gentleman remarked benignly:

"You been busy with good work this Lent as usual, I suppose, Miss Lottie."

"Yes, indeed," said Miss Lottie. "I've been a member of a current event class. We studied everything that was happening, you know, about Lord Salisbury's not wanting us to have Venezuela and about Mr. Bayard's making speeches when I suppose he ought to have been at his office, and everything."

"And did you study the Cuban question, too?" inquired the elderly gentleman with the deference due from age to progressive youth.

"The Cuban question? Well, I should say we did study it! Why, we had a box party for the free Cuba play the very first night it was produced."

Then the old gentleman said respectfully that such a Lent had not been wasted, and left the car.

"I am going to give up being a missionary," announced the young woman who had been giving up two afternoons a month to "elevating the masses," as she expressed it. "I am pined and discouraged by the inability of the poor to grasp the necessity for improvement. They are positively frivolous."

"What makes you say that?" inquired the girl who was toasting marshmallows over the lamp.

"My experience with Mrs.——, well, with one of my poor women," replied the missionary. "She was run down and I left a dollar for her to buy cod liver oil. When I went the next day to see her the dollar was gone and the oil was not bought. She said apologetically that she was 'real sorry,' but that she had always wanted to go to a manure heap and that she was afraid she'd never have the money to spare again. So she took the dollar and went to the manure heap, and spent the rest of the dollar on having her hair curled."

It was the small boy who created an unfavorable sentiment against his sister in church circles. When the president of the Woman's Auxiliary was calling he entertained her for awhile and remarked incidentally that "Minnie wanted to start a saloon in town." And it was several weeks before the church circles discovered that Minnie was merely ambitious to establish a saloon.

PROOF POSITIVE.

The First Girl—So you think they are engaged?

The Second Girl—I am sure of it. Why, she has stopped speaking of him as Tom West and always refers to him as "mister."

THE NEW HOUSEWIFE.

A Man's View of the Present Influence on the Solution of the Servant Girl Question.

That ever-present problem, the "girl," seems in a fair way of solving herself at least that is the judgment of a man who has pondered deeply upon the why and wherefore of her. Said he the other day: "I rejoice in the New Woman—hail her as a boon indeed—for I believe she is broadening to a degree that will make her just to those she employs. Now, she is often generous, and nearly always tyrannical. I don't mean by that that she is brutally unkind, but that she has somehow an idea that for \$14 a month she takes a first mortgage not merely upon the muscles and time, but the soul, the intelligence, of the young person in the kitchen. She is not satisfied that results are achieved—she wants to be certain they are achieved just so, after the fashion her mother or grandmother approved, and handed down to herself. Then, too, she feels that she is cruelly defrauding herself if she cannot in some way make work enough to fill every minute between 8 in the morning and 10 at night. And never once does it occur to her that the incompetence she so bewails—the stupidity, the carelessness, are things for which she should really be grateful, since but for them she would have no servant at all. In domestic service, as in other things, extra skill is worth extra money. It is as idle to expect to buy first-rate capacity at the rate of tenth-rate incapacity as it would be to think of purchasing a masterpiece at the price of a bargain-counter chromo."

"Now, the New Mistress is going to change all this, I know, for I have already seen it demonstrated. My shining example is a woman doctor, one of the pioneers, who has reached the stage of ease and eminent specialism. She has for servant an American girl, who is full of capacity to her finger tips, but whom previous employers pronounced 'too hard-headed for anything.' In her present position she is not 'hard-headed'—she has not the least occasion to be. For her employer says only: 'I like a clean, dainty house and punctual, well-served meals, so I think, do you? Now, I will supply the money for them—you must do the work. How, when, why, you do it I do not in the least care, so long as things go to my mind. If you can do what is necessary in half the day, the other half is your own. I put you in honor, for I shall never look after her late anything. You are to go to market, keep the keys and relieve me of every responsibility of my household. So long as you do that we will never fall out. More, I will help you to every reasonable pleasure.'"

"So Emmeline—that's the girl—has been in her present place five years. Her employer lives in a flat facing Central Park. Last year Emmeline bought a bicycle, and was encouraged to use it in snatches of spare time. She is learning the violin, too, and has no more interested auditor than the mistress, with whom she declares she means to live and die. Meantime I look on with delight, throwing up my hat for the New Mistress, and praying that she may increase."

FOR THE CONVALESCENT.

A convalescent's cap is the latest article of apparel devised for the invalid. As a rule, the many additions to the toilet made by fond relatives and friends have resulted only in additional trial to the sufferer. This new cap is practical as well as attractive. Anxiety and affection can put into it evidence of themselves in the form of lace and needlework, and yet do no harm. The soft frills that fall about the face and



the equally soft silk that makes the foundation lend themselves to every change of position and are absolutely without resistance. The convalescent is protected from any possible draught about the head, and what is, perhaps, best of all, the hair is kept free of snarls. The model came from Paris, whence come so many good things, but the idea has already become popular here. Fine soft mull, finished with embroidery may be, and is substituted for the silk, but if so much as a hint of stiffening be allowed to enter into the make-up, the essential quality is lost.

CAUSE FOR QUARRELLING.

Jack—So they've quarrelled already? I don't see why. I thought she was the most domestic little soul.

Bob—That's just it. In the effort to make home beautiful she painted his roll-top desk with white enamel paint and gilt scroll work.

Medici Ruff with Blazer.



A WOMAN ASTRONOMER.

The Daughter of Richard Proctor Has Taken Up His Calling and Methods.

She Gives an Account of Her Own Efforts in Popularizing the Science of the Stars.

Miss Mary Proctor is the first woman astronomer to enter the lecture field. She is at present in New York, giving a series of lectures under the auspices of the New York City Board of Education and preparing for a trip to Norway, which she will take in June.

Miss Proctor is anticipating much pleasure in her visit to the Land of the Midnight Sun.

"I am going," she said in a recent interview, "with a party of astronomers, to take observations on the eclipse of the sun which takes place in Northern Europe in August. Young ladies from the various colleges and seminaries will accompany the party, and I have been engaged to deliver a series of astronomical lectures during the voyage. We shall reach the North Cape, Norway, in time to see the Midnight Sun, and are due at Bodo August 7, where the eclipse will be seen the morning of the 8th."

"During the trip I shall lecture on the constellations as seen from night to night, and also give the following special lectures: 'Great Solar Eclipses,' 'Mars, the Planet of Retardation,' 'Other Worlds Than Ours' and 'Wonders of the Star Depths.' The entire trip will thus be converted into a kindergarten study of the stars."

"This total eclipse of the sun in 1896 will only be visible in the extreme portion of Japan and Siberia and in Nova Zembla and Northern Norway. It will be an event of great interest in the astronomical world and one I would not miss even if I were a poor sailor; fortunately I am as much at home on a rough sea as in a quiet observatory."

"I shall lecture in London in the latter part of August on the eclipse of the sun, and then hasten back to Boston, where I am to lecture in the Fall on the same subject before the Congress of Women."

"Professor William Payne, the astronomer, of Carleton College, Minnesota, will accompany us on the entire trip, as will many other astronomers of note from America and England."

Miss Proctor is the daughter of the English astronomer, Richard A. Proctor. Her early friends and associations were all in London, for it was not until 1886 that the family came to America.

Miss Proctor studied and read with her father, and watched his calculations and observations from the time she was a mite of a child. She liked far better being with him, studying the "flowers of the sky" through his telescope, than indulging in the merriest childish amusements.

In alluding to her profession, Miss Proctor said: "I first grew to love astronomy because it was my father's delight, and because the study of it associated me closely with him and his work. I worked constantly with him until his death, and then, never dreaming that I was fitted to continue in his field, I began teaching music and painting."

"My first step in the direction of becoming a practical astronomer was taken just prior to the World's Fair, in Chicago. I chanced upon a circular issued by Mrs. Foster Palmer, asking women to suggest subjects of interest for the lectures in the Children's Building of the Exposition."

"I wrote her saying that I thought lectures on astronomy would please children. In reply she asked me to arrange to give them. When I reached the World's Fair with my first lecture, the 'Brownies in Starland,' ready for the group of children I expected to face, and found an audience of six hundred men and women awaiting me, I was almost in despair."

"The lecture delivered that day was really imprudent, just a few of the original thoughts used as a foundation. It was my first success, and since then I have given my whole time to lecturing and writing on astronomy. Of course I have had the advantage my father's reputation as an astronomer would naturally give me and the help always to be gained from a love and reverence for one's profession."

Besides the work involved in constant research and preparation for fresh lectures Miss Proctor is a regular contributor of astronomical articles to the Popular Science News, the Observer, the Chautauquan, and Popular Astronomy.

She is an advocate of the Woman's Club movement and is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Washington National Science League, the Montreal Woman's Club, Woman's Press Club and the Professional Woman's League, of New York.

Miss Proctor's aim in lecturing is to popularize the study of astronomy, and in order to do this she avoids in her talks all abstruse technicalities, so that those unversed in the science will understand and become interested. Her lectures especially prepared for children are "The Giant Sun and His Family," and "The Legends of the Stars."

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